IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A virtual stored data management subsystem, the virtual stored data management subsystem comprising:

one or more hosts; and

a plurality of virtual data units functionally coupled to the one or more hosts, wherein the plurality of virtual data units includes associated management information such that the management information provides first and second boundaries such that the first and second boundaries limit preferences in which to ~~store~~ map the virtual data units into logical device definitions within the stored data management subsystem.

2. (original) The virtual stored data management subsystem of claim 1, wherein the management information is independent of attributes of the virtual stored data management subsystem.

3. (original) The virtual stored data management subsystem of claim 2, wherein the management information conforms to installation criteria within the virtual stored data management system.

4. (original) The virtual stored data management subsystem of claim 1, wherein the management information is related to attributes of the virtual stored data management subsystem utilizing a plurality of rules.

5. (original) The virtual stored data management subsystem of claim 4, wherein the plurality of rules are variable.

6. (original) The virtual stored data management subsystem of claim 5, wherein the variable rules are an algorithm.

7. (original) The virtual stored management subsystem of claim 1, wherein the management information is processed in accordance with storage element attributes and further comprises:

deriving relationships that define the first and second boundaries; and

stipulating the first and second boundaries, wherein stipulated first and second boundaries includes stated relationships from derived relationships.

8. (original) The virtual stored management subsystem of claim 7, wherein the relationships exist only on demand.

9. (original) The virtual stored management subsystem of claim 7, wherein the relationships are a combination of storage subsystem relationships.

10. (original) The virtual stored management subsystem of claim 9, wherein the combination of storage subsystem relationships includes a redundant array of inexpensive disks (RAID) and a hierarchical storage management (HSM).